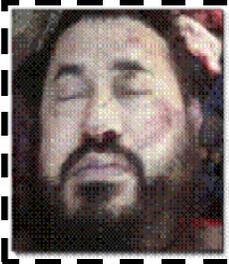


Profiles In Terrorism: Al-Zarqawi & His Successor

ABU MUSAB AL-ZARQAWI



Ahmad Fadheel Nazaal al-Khalaylah. ("Abu Musab al-Zarqawi" is his *nom de guerre*) was born in Zarqa, Jordan in October 1966. He came from a large family belonging to the trans-Jordanian Bani Hassan tribe, which is known for its loyalty to the royal Hashemite family. He grew up in the al-Ma'ssoum slum, was an indifferent student and spent most of his time in the municipal cemetery which served as his playground. He was known for being rebellious, got left back at school and turned into a juvenile delinquent, even spending time in jail.

Zarqawi, a longtime ally of Osama bin Laden, was a high-ranking member of bin Laden's Al Qaeda network, and since October 2004 had referred to his own organization Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, or Monotheism and Holy War Group, a terrorist network operating in Iraq, as "Al-Qaeda in Iraq". On October 21, 2004, Zarqawi officially announced his allegiance to Al Qaeda; on December 27, 2004, Al Jazeera broadcast an audiotape of bin Laden calling Zarqawi "**the prince of al Qaeda in Iraq**" and asked "**all our organization brethren to listen to him and obey him in his good deeds.**"

Nicholas Berg. On May 25, 2004, the world watched in horror as American **Nicholas Berg** was beheaded, the first in a series of hostage beheadings executed by an Islamic jihadist (i.e., terrorist) group in Iraq; a live video clip was posted on the Internet. Behind the victim stood four masked men, one of them reading aloud from Berg's "execution sentence" and warning Westerners to get out of Iraq, threatening that they would suffer the same fate. Immediately thereafter he took a long knife from his garment and shouting "Allahu Akbar," cut off Berg's head and held it up before the camera.

Justice Is Finally Served. On June 12, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad the insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi lived for 52 minutes, in and out of consciousness, before he succumbed to massive internal injuries caused by the concussive blasts from two 500-pound bombs dropped by a U.S. fighter jet, U.S. military officials in Baghdad said.

HIS SUCCESSOR: AL-MUHAJIR, ABU HAMZA

Biography: Abu Hamza al-Muhajir (likely an alias) was named Emir of the Mujahideen Shura Council shortly after the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. As the Mujahideen Shura Council is an umbrella group with the al-Qaeda, it follows that al-Muhajir will play a leadership role for al-Qaeda as well. Although almost nothing is known about al-Muhajir, his name means "immigrant," leading many to believe that he is a foreign-born fighter.



Who is Abu Hamza al-Muhajir?

The *nom de guerre* al-Muhajir has chosen offers some clues. As with many terrorists in Iraq, his name begins with Abu, meaning "father of," and is followed by a name that is either his son's or a pseudonym. The second part of the name usually is a clue to the person's place of origin. Al-Muhajir means "the emigrant," which has led most experts to speculate that he is not Iraqi. It could also be a reference to time spent traveling or training in a place such as Afghanistan.

What is the symbolic importance of the post, and what does it mean to the GWOT ?

With the appointment of this new emir, Iraq remains the central front in the Global War on Terrorism. Al-Qaeda in Iraq was already in the midst of a steady transformation at the time of Zarqawi's death. The group was initially composed primarily of foreign fighters, but over the last several months it has begun to incorporate many more native fighters in hopes of creating an indigenous home base. Part of the reason for this shift was many of Zarqawi's foreign-born lieutenants had been killed off and his ability to gain new recruits was diminishing.

Democrats Lack Alternative on Iraq

By Tim Starks CQ Daily June 14, 2006

For the first time since they authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq, lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol will formally debate President Bush's war policies Thursday, with Democrats determined to focus on the slow progress toward stability in that country.

Republicans, however, will not pass up the opportunity to point out that congressional Democrats never have been able to agree on alternatives to administration policy.

The House is slated to begin 10 hours of debate on a Republican-drafted resolution that rejects setting deadlines for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq and calls for completing the mission on Bush's terms.

In the Senate, continuing consideration of the fiscal 2007 defense authorization bill is expected to include debate on several Democratic-sponsored amendments that would either require a troop withdrawal by the end of the year or urge the administration to set a goal of withdrawal within 18 months. Late Wednesday, Democratic senators were huddling in an effort to agree on a single amendment addressing the issue of a withdrawal timetable. Dianne Feinstein of California said the group "has been sitting down to try to work out something that will try to unify the party."

The issue of withdrawal deadlines also continues to divide House Democrats. Discussions within the party caucus throughout the day Wednesday **produced no agreement**

on withdrawal language that Democrats could unite behind as an alternative to the Republican resolution. As it turns out, the failure to settle on an alternative will not particularly matter because the House Rules Committee decided Wednesday not to allow amendments to be offered to the Republican resolution (H Res 861).

Democrats might have been able to offer a substitute through a procedural motion, but that would have required them to agree on language and reveal it to the Republican majority in advance of the debate.

Louise M. Slaughter of New York, the ranking Democrat on the Rules panel, said the Rules Committee's decision to block amendments could play into Democratic hands. Democrats, she said, will focus the debate on the flaws in the Republicans' handling of the war.

"We're going to make them aware of three years of lack of oversight, eight generals and their scathing criticism and that no one can account for \$9 billion," said Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

But that does not mean most House Democrats will vote against the GOP resolution backing the war. Gregory W. Meeks, D-N.Y., said Democrats will **"vote the way they have to vote politically, but articulate our commonality."**